

Provision Enhancement – Sorting and Comparing Groups to 5

30-50 months

(M-N2) Uses some number names accurately in play.

(M-N8) Compares two groups of objects, saying when they have the same number.

(M-N10) Separates a group of three or four objects in different ways, beginning to recognise that the total is still the same.

40-60 months

(M-N15) Recognises numerals 1 to 5.

(M-N16) Counts up to three or four objects by saying one number name for each item.

(M-N23) Uses the language of 'more' and 'fewer' to compare two sets of objects.

Early Learning Goal

ELG 11: Children count reliably with numbers from 1 to 20, place them in order and say which number is one more or one less than a given number. Using quantities and objects, they add and subtract two single-digit numbers and count on or back to find the answer. They solve problems, including doubling, halving and sharing.

More [EYFS Mathematics](#) resources.

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Observation Sheet – Sorting and Comparing Groups to 5

Child's name:				Date:																																			
Age:				Practitioner:																																			
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Provision Enhancement Key



Build it



Find it



Write it



Explain it



Count it



Cut it out



Read it



Complete it



Draw it



Sort it

Advice and ideas

Maths A

Set up a variety of counters e.g. different colours and sizes. Ask children to sort them into groups. Encourage children to discuss how they have grouped them.

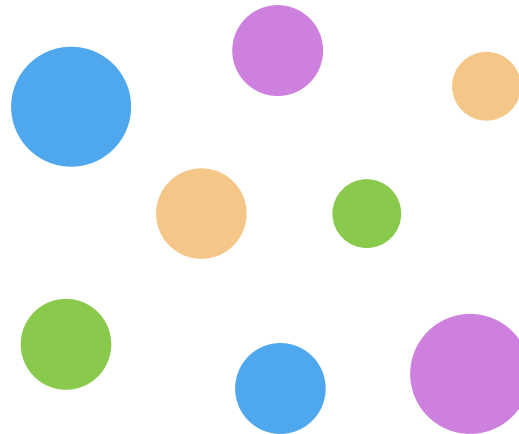
Maths B

Set up a variety of compare bears. Ask children to sort them into groups. Encourage children to discuss how they have grouped them.

Maths A



Sort the counters into different groups.

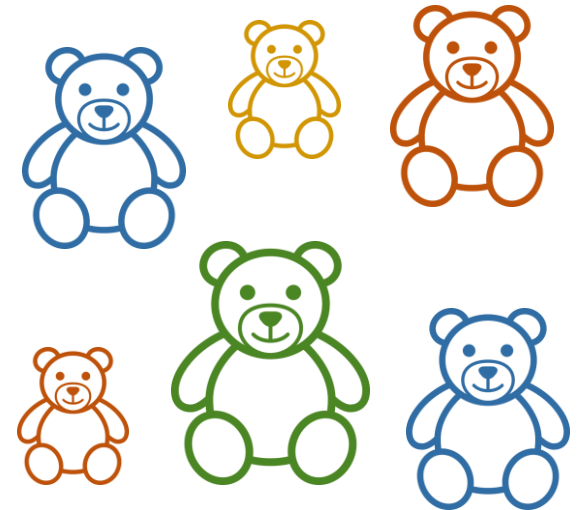


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Maths B



How many ways can you sort the bears?



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Advice and ideas

Maths A

Display a variety of different sized pine cones. Children to group the pine cones based on size. Discuss which group has more/less.

Maths B

Set up a variety of Numicon pieces. Encourage children to sort the Numicon into different groups e.g. into groups of one Numicon, two Numicon, etc.

Maths A



Sort **5** pine cones by size.
How many are big?
How many are small?

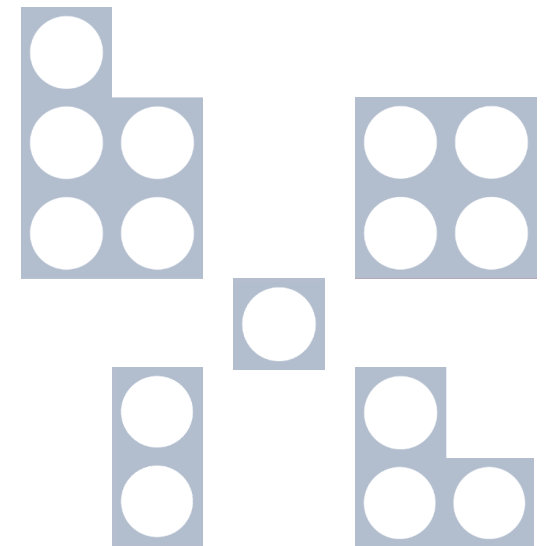


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Maths B



Sort the Numicon.



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Advice and ideas

Construction/STEM A

Set up a lightbox, or similar, with a variety of objects on e.g. cellophane shapes. Ask children to compare by discussing which group has more/fewer.

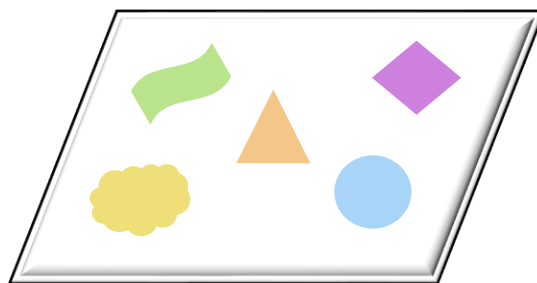
Construction/STEM B

Encourage children to use language to explain how they have sorted their blocks. Can they build a tower with the blocks in their different groups? How are the towers the similar/different?

Construction/STEM A



**Sort the objects
on the lightbox.
Count how
many are in
each group.**

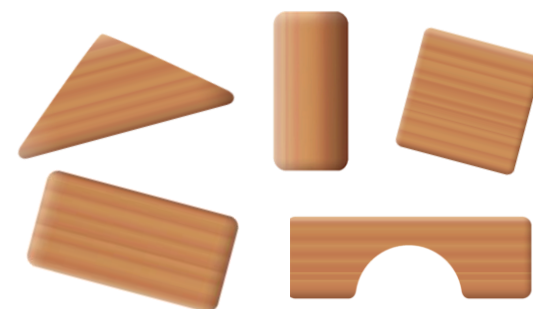


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Construction/STEM B



**Sort the blocks.
How are they
the same?
How are they
different?**



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Advice and ideas

Creative A

Encourage children to sort four different models made in class. Ask them to discuss how they have grouped them and which group has more/less, or if all groups have the same.

Creative B

Put out feathers varying in size, shape, colour, etc. Encourage children to sort the feathers into different groups. Children to count how many are in each group and compare.

Creative A



Sort **3** models into different groups.



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Creative B



Sort the feathers and stick them into 2 groups.



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Provision Enhancement – Sorting and Comparing Groups to 5

Advice and ideas

Fine Motor A

Set out a range of different coloured beads. Children to count out five beads, sort them into two groups and thread them onto a piece of string. Discuss which group has more/fewer.

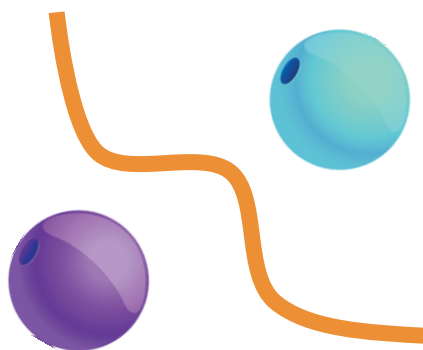
Fine Motor B

Set up two containers for children to sort the matchsticks into. After counting, encourage them to talk about which group has more/less or whether the two groups total the same.

Fine Motor A



Sort **5** beads into
2 groups and
thread them
onto your string.



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Fine Motor B



Sort the
matchsticks.
Which group has
more?
Which group has
less?



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EYFS – Mathematics – Sorting and Comparing Groups to 5 – Fine Motor

Advice and ideas

Home Corner A

Set out a range of different socks. After sorting, discuss which group has more/fewer or whether the groups total the same. You could also discuss different patterns.

Home Corner B

Either set out, or encourage children to count out five vegetables. Ask them to sort the vegetables into two groups. Discuss what makes them the same/different?

Home Corner A



Sort the socks into different groups.



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Home Corner B



Sort the 5 vegetables in 2 groups.



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Provision Enhancement – Sorting and Comparing Groups to 5

Advice and ideas

Malleable A

Hide a variety of objects in a bowl/tray of rice. After finding four objects ask children to sort them into two groups and discuss. Can they count how many are in each group?

Malleable B

Set up playdough and a variety of buttons. After children have sorted the buttons, encourage them to squash them into the playdough. Encourage children to explain how they have sorted them.

Malleable A



Find **4** objects and sort them into 2 groups.

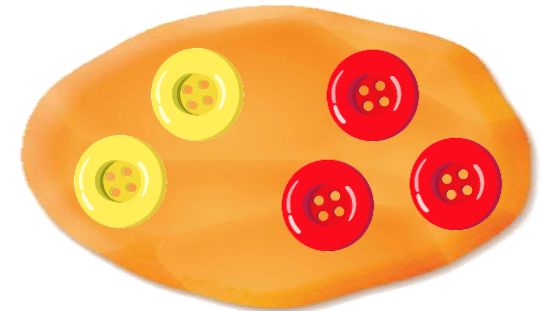


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Malleable B



Sort the buttons into 2 groups and put them on the playdough.



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EYFS – Mathematics – Sorting and Comparing Groups to 5 – Malleable

Advice and ideas

Outdoor A

Count out children into groups of five. Ask them to sort themselves into different groups. Discuss ideas such as sorting by hair colour, eye colour, gender, age, etc.

Outdoor B

Either count and look at real trees, or set up a variety of model trees for the children to compare. Encourage them to talk about which tree is bigger/smaller, which has more/less leaves.

Outdoor A



**Sort yourself and
4 friends into
different groups.**



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Outdoor B



**Look at 3 trees.
What is
different?
What is the
same?**



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Advice and ideas

Sand A

Encourage children to sort different tools in the sand and discuss with a friend or teacher why/how they have sorted them. You could discuss colour, size, weight or shape.

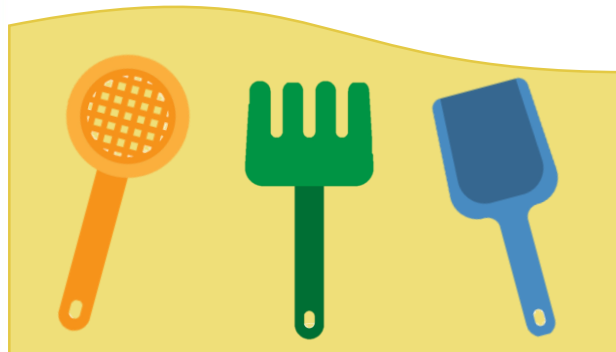
Sand B

Set up a variety of animals in the sand. Once children have sorted them into two or more groups discuss which group has more/less. You could also discuss habitats.

Sand A



**Sort the tools in
the sand.
Talk about how
you have sorted
them.**

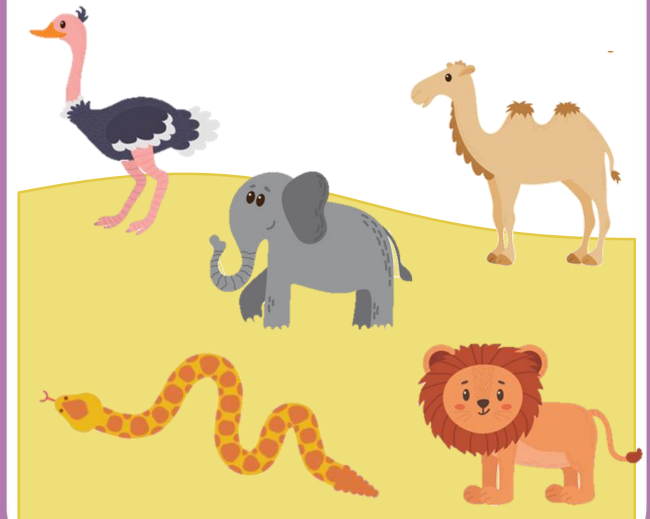


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Sand B



**Sort 5 animals in
the sand.**



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Provision Enhancement – Sorting and Comparing Groups to 5

Advice and ideas

Small World A

In a small world setting, display a range of stones varying in size, colour, pattern, etc. Encourage children to sort them into 2 groups for a purpose e.g. a cave, a rock pool and discuss.

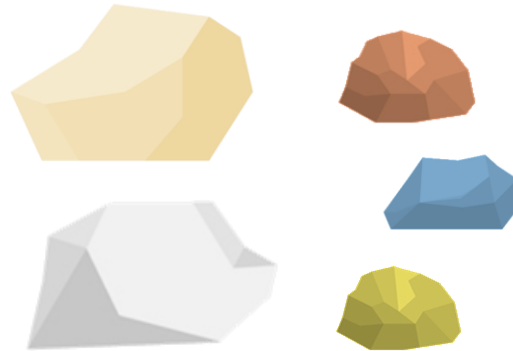
Small World B

In a small world setting, display a range of flowers varying in size, colour, etc. Encourage children to sort them into 2 groups. Discuss which groups have more/less.

Small World A



**Sort the
stones into
2 groups.**

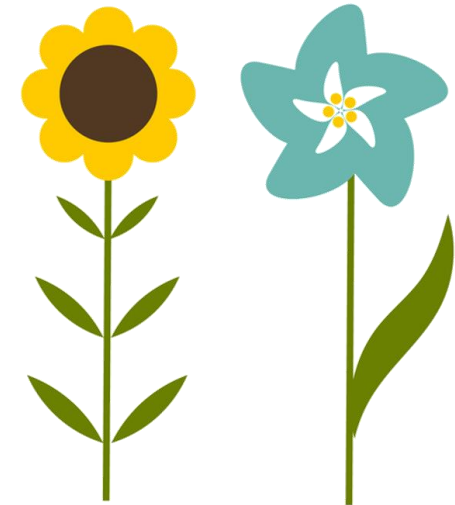


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Small World B



**Sort the flowers
into 2 groups.**



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EYFS – Mathematics – Sorting and Comparing Groups to 5 – Small World

Provision Enhancement – Sorting and Comparing Groups to 5

Advice and ideas

Snack A

Display a variety of fruit in the snack area. Ask children to discuss how they could sort them into different groups. You could discuss colour, size, weight and shape.

Snack B

Display a variety of vegetables in the snack area. Ask children to discuss how they could sort them into different groups. You could discuss colour, size, weight and shape.

Snack A



Talk about how you could sort the different pieces of fruit.



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Snack B



Talk about how you could sort the different vegetables.



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EYFS – Mathematics – Sorting and Comparing Groups to 5 – Snack

Provision Enhancement – Sorting and Comparing Groups to 5

Advice and ideas

Tuff Tray A

Display a variety of materials with different textures. Encourage children to sort them into different groups and talk about which group has more/less items or if the groups total the same.

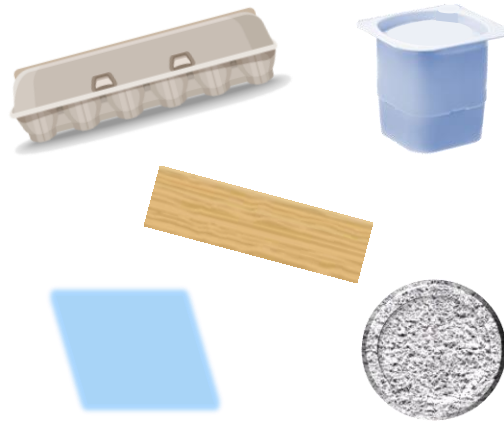
Tuff Tray B

Encourage children to collect a variety of sticks to sort in the mud. Discuss how they have sorted them and compare the groups by investigating which group has more/less.

Tuff Tray A



Sort the materials into different groups.



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Tuff Tray B



Sort your sticks into 2 groups in the mud.



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EYFS – Mathematics – Sorting and Comparing Groups to 5 – Tuff Tray

Advice and ideas

Water A

Either display five shells, or ask children to count out five shells and sort them into two groups e.g. grouped by curved edges or pointy edges. Discuss which group has more/less.

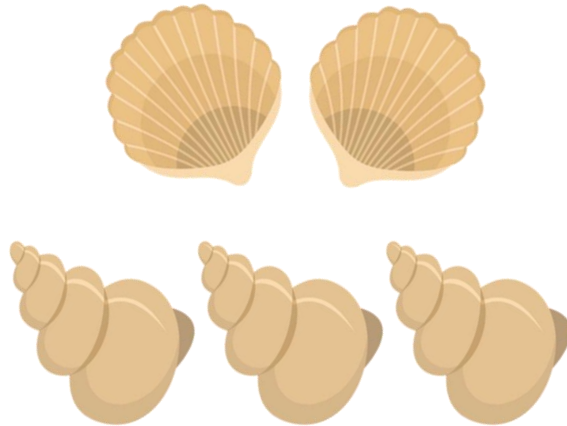
Water B

Set up a variety of five little ducks. Encourage children to sing Five Little Ducks in the water and then sort them into two groups. Discuss how they have sorted them and compare the different groups.

Water A



Sort the **5** shells into 2 groups.

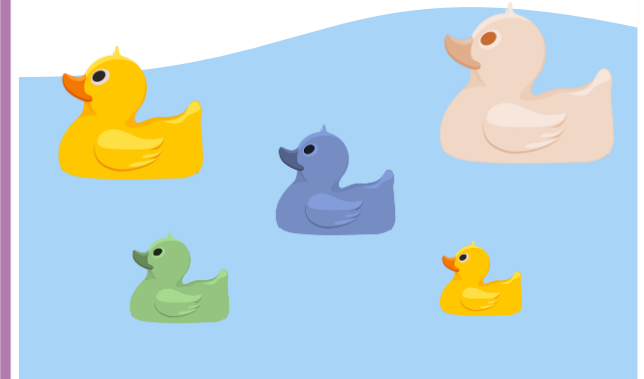


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Water B



Can you sort the **5** ducks into 2 groups?



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Advice and ideas

Writing A

Set up a range of dinosaurs. Encourage children to sort the dinosaurs into different groups and explain. Children to write how many are in each group. Discuss which group has more/fewer.

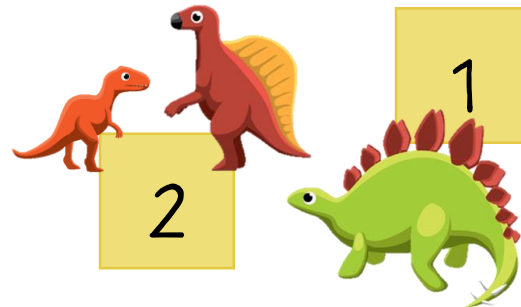
Writing B

Set up a range of superheroes. Encourage children to sort them into different groups and explain. Children to write how many are in each group. Discuss which group has more/less.

Writing A



Sort the dinosaurs into groups. Write how many are in each group.

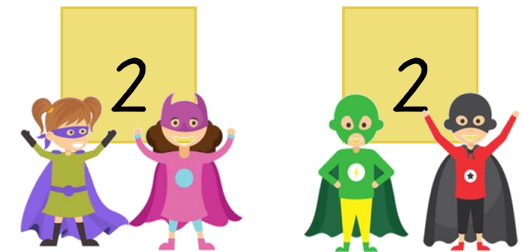


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Writing B



Sort the 4 superheroes into groups. Write how many are in each group.



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